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NORHAM & ISLANDSHIRES
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

UPON THE

Health and Sanitary Conditions

OF THE

Norham and Islandshires Rural District

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1949

How & Blackhall, Printers, 83 Marygate, Berwick-on-Tweed.

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Norham and Islandshires Rural District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1949.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area—47,011 acres.
Population (estimated)—4,510.
Number of inhabited houses—1,560.
Rateable Value—£18,702.
Sum represented by 1d. Rate—£76.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

This is a rural area, farming being the primary industry in the district. Salmon fishing provides a living for a considerable population along Tweedside, whilst coalmining in the Scremerston area provides the bulk of employment in that section of the district.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total.	Male.	Female.	
Live Births	Legitimate	56	28	28	Birthrate per 1000 Population—13.08
	Illegitimate	3	3	0	
Still Births		1	1	0	Rate per 1000 births—16.6
Deaths		57	24	33	Rate per 1000 Population—12.68

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis—Nil.
" " other puerperal causes—Nil.

This shows 13 fewer births and 19 fewer deaths than in 1948.

Death Rate of Infants under one year—

All infants (per 1000 live births)—50.8.
Legitimate infants (per 1000 legitimate live births)—53.5.
Illegitimate infants (per 1000 illegitimate live births)—Nil.

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)—5.
" " Measles—Nil.
" " Whooping Cough—Nil.
" " Diarrhoea—1.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area

Medical Officer (part-time) ..... Herbert F. Park, M.B., Ch.B., Norham.
Sanitary Inspector ..... N. Senior, M.S.I.A., East Ord.
Laboratory Facilities ..... County Laboratory, Newcastle.

Ambulance Facilities.—These are provided by the National Health Service from the Berwick depot. Sitting cars are also available, and up to the present the service has been quite satisfactory.

Nursing.—The nursing services are also provided under N.H.S. and operate as before.

Hospitals.—There are none in the area. For general nursing the Berwick Infirmary, and for maternity the Castle Hills Maternity Home are provided under the N.H.S.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water.—Generally speaking, there has been no material change in the position.

The gravitation supplies to Norham and Horncliffe areas from the Reservoir at Shoreswood continue adequate and satisfactory. The supply is pumped from Thornton to Shoreswood and thence gravitates to the villages.

At **Cornhill** the arrangements for a supply pumped from the River Tweed, and then treated, are still under consideration.

Holy Island.—The scheme to supply this area from the mainland is also still under consideration.

Scremerston.—In this area there has been a shortage of water, and arrangements to get a supplementary supply are proceeding, pending the suggested linking up of this part of the district with a scheme for the development of a water supply at Longridge Towers.

Fenwick.—A scheme is under consideration for the provision of a water supply to this part of the district from a borehole proposed to be sunk on the outskirts of Kyloe Woods.

Other areas are still badly supplied, and no change has been made during the year. They include Castle Heaton, Riffington, Norham Mains, Harper Ridge, and the Beal area.

None of the supplies are plumbo-solvent. There is no contamination, and no treatment is carried out.

Drainage and Sewage.—There are no major changes—except the extension of existing systems to the Council houses in course of erection.

Scavenging.—A system of collection of household refuse is in force throughout the area and proves very satisfactory.

Rivers and Streams.—There is no gross pollution of streams in the area.

Housing.—There is still an urgent need for more dwelling houses. The Council's building programme is not nearly completed. The number of new Council houses completed this year is **64.** The standard of housing throughout the area is definitely poor.

PARISHES WITH PIPED SUPPLIES OF WATER

Parish	Number of Houses	Houses with W.C.s	Houses with Bath	Houses with Standpipe supply only
Norham	220	122	94	70
Norham Mains ...	19	3	3	16
Horncliffe ...	80	69	58	10
Loanend ...	24	8	8	13
Shoresdean ...	44	30	30	13
Duddo	31	28	28	3
Felkington ...	16	15	15	1
Thornton ...	29	17	17	2
Grindon ...	18	2	2	12
Longridge ...	15	6	2	8
Kyloe	161	64	48	91
Ancroft	333	117	115	211
Holy Island ...	106	22	14	106
Twizell	45	13	14	22
Ord	129	74	64	37
Cornhill	139	36	23	89
Totals ...	1409	624	409	705

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	4	4	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	—	—	—
Pneumonia	2	2	1
Measles	35	—	—
Whooping Cough	22	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever ...	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Diarrhoea	—	—	1

Food Poisoning.—There have been no cases during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
45	2	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
55	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 plus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	—	3	2	1	1	—	—

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H Park.

M.O.H.

Cross House,
Norham-on-Tweed.
September, 1950.

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector

For the Year 1949

Gentlemen,

In accordance with the provisions of the Sanitary Officers' (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, I herewith submit the Annual Report for the year ended 31st December, 1949.

NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR

Public Health Act, 1936.		
Part Two. Sanitation and Buildings	75	
Part Three. Nuisances and Offensive Trades ...	19	
Part Four. Water Supplies	92	
Part Five. Notifiable Diseases	5	
Total Visits, etc.		191
Housing Act, 1936.		
Part Two. Inspection of insanitary houses ...		9
Food and Drugs Act, 1938.		
Milk and Dairies Regulations		24
Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919.		
Visits in connection with infestations		48
Petroleum Consolidated Act, 1928.		
Visits in connection with the storage of petrol ...		11
Total		283
Other Visits and Inspections.		
(a) In connection with the repairs to Council Houses	98	
(b) With Tradesmen in connection with repairs to Council property	22	
(c) In connection with the Control of Civil Building	101	
(d) In connection with Salvage	12	
(e) Administration of the Town and Country Planning Act	65	
(f) Miscellaneous Visits, Interviews, etc. ...	54	
Total Visits, etc.		352
TOTAL VISITS, INSPECTIONS, INTERVIEWS, etc. ...		635

Number of Notices served during the year.

Informal	49
Statutory	Nil

Result of Service of such Notices.

Drains repaired or renewed	5
Removal of accumulated Refuse	4
Sanitary Conveniences — Repair or provision of W.C.s	33
Dwelling Houses — Dampness eliminated ...	5

Food Condemned.

One Ham, 14 lbs. Decomposing and flyblown.
One shoulder of Mutton. Internal abscess.
Cheese, 42 lbs. Mouldy.

Samples for Analysis.

	Total.	Satisfactory.	Unsatisfactory
Water—Chemical ...	1	1	—
Bacteriological	25	18	7

COMMENTARY

Scavenging.—This scheme has been in operation since 1946. Considering the size of the area—72 square miles—it is indeed pleasing to maintain a satisfactory service with one waggon and two men.

Water Supplies.—Water consumption throughout the District Council area is daily increasing, due to the present admirable trend to modernise country cottages, and to the large programme of post-war Council house building undertaken by the District Council. Until the four large schemes prepared by the District Council blossom into fruition, production of an ample quantity of water for domestic use throughout the area presents a problem.

Housing Act, 1949, Sec. 20. Grant Aid for Reconditioning.—This Act was very welcome as a successor to the Housing (Rural Workers) Act, but it is feared that the standards of fitness laid down by the Ministry of Health are far too high, considering present-day high cost of labour and materials, to attract owners to apply for grant aid.

Housing.—Though progress in the provision of new houses has been slow and in the main very disappointing, 67 new houses have been provided during the year, and the difficult housing situation, though not cured, has been considerably eased.

Building Licences.—Throughout the year 26 applications for Building Licences were received, and all were approved.

Plans.—Throughout the year 65 plans were deposited and all were approved by the District Council with one exception.

Disinfection.—All premises where infectious diseases have occurred have been disinfected during the year.

Dairies and Cowsheds—Milk Supply.—During the year, dairies and cowsheds have been inspected. Structurally the buildings are generally poor, but on the whole the standard of cleanliness is good. Three new byres and dairies have been constructed during the year and are very satisfactory.

Slaughterhouses.—The two in the District are not now used as such, as Meat supplies are controlled by the Ministry of Food from outside the area.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

Sanitary Inspector.

34, Eastern Lane,
Berwick-upon-Tweed.
September, 1950.